



# County of Los Angeles **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

(213) 974-1101

<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

October 17, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DJ", is written over the printed name "David E. Janssen". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

## **THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES' ABILITY TO RESPOND TO A LARGE-SCALE DISASTER**

On September 20, 2005, on a motion from Supervisor Molina, your Board directed the Chief Administrative Office's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to provide a report in 30 days providing:

- a) A post-mortem assessment of the County's ability to respond to large-scale disasters, like Hurricane Katrina; and
- b) A public outreach campaign plan for disaster preparedness; and
- c) An assessment of the County's Operational Area Emergency Response Plan with recommendations to improve its effectiveness in large-scale disaster response.

In evaluating the above directive, OEM determined that its execution will require an extensive plan of action. OEM determined a methodology to assess the County's state of readiness and to address the above listed items. This methodology is outlined below.

- Self-examination and in-depth review of existing plans by OEM, County departments, and critical external agencies with the goal of examining the County's overall ability to respond effectively to a large-scale disaster.
- Based on self-examination results, OEM, in conjunction with stakeholder groups, will: (1) identify gaps between County resources and resources required to effectively respond to large-scale incidents; (2) identify planning and response weaknesses requiring improvement; and (3) make recommendations on ways to close gaps and enhance plans.

- OEM is currently evaluating the County's Emergency Survival Program (ESP) public outreach campaign to determine its effectiveness. Our final report will include recommendations to strengthen ESP's public outreach.

OEM has already conducted both an internal meeting of its personnel and a joint meeting of the Emergency Management Council (EMC) Steering and Subcommittees to begin this process. OEM tasked each of the groups to respond to detailed questions addressing critical aspects of existing County emergency plans.

Due to the critical importance of this assignment and the need to engage appropriate stakeholders and perform a thorough review, I am requesting that: (1) the Board accept this report as a 30-day Interim Report; and (2) allow for the submission of the Final Report on December 20, 2005. The final report will include: a description of the County's highest catastrophic impact threats (earthquake, etc.); findings from the self-examination process identified above; resources required to close identified gaps; recommendations to address the highest priority planning, preparedness, and public outreach needs; and an action plan identifying strategies and timelines for all achievable recommendations.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me or Constance Perett, Director, Office of Emergency Management, at (323) 980-2261.

DEJ:CP  
KG:cm

c: Department Heads  
Board Emergency Preparedness Deputies